

Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

**(3) Nonprofit partners**

An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

**(4) Non-Federal share**

The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

**(5) Limitation on land use**

An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 4601-8(f)(3) of this title.

**(6) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title VII, §7301, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1213.)

**§ 4691. Findings and purposes**

**(a) Findings**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Underground Railroad, which flourished from the end of the 18th century to the end of the Civil War, was one of the most significant expressions of the American civil rights movement during its evolution over more than three centuries.

(2) The Underground Railroad bridged the divides of race, religion, sectional differences, and nationality; spanned State lines and international borders; and joined the American ideals of liberty and freedom expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to the extraordinary actions of ordinary men and women working in common purpose to free a people.

(3) Pursuant to title VI of Public Law 101-628 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5 note; 104 Stat. 4495), the Underground Railroad Advisory Committee conducted a study of the appropriate means of establishing an enduring national commemorative Underground Railroad program of education, example, reflection, and reconciliation.

(4) The Underground Railroad Advisory Committee found that—

(A) although a few elements of the Underground Railroad story are represented in existing National Park Service units and other sites, many sites are in imminent danger of being lost or destroyed, and many important resource types are not adequately represented and protected;

(B) there are many important sites which have high potential for preservation and visitor use in 29 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands;

(C) no single site or route completely reflects and characterizes the Underground

Railroad, since its story and associated resources involve networks and regions of the country rather than individual sites and trails; and

(D) establishment of a variety of partnerships between the Federal Government and other levels of government and the private sector would be most appropriate for the protection and interpretation of the Underground Railroad.

(5) The National Park Service can play a vital role in facilitating the national commemoration of the Underground Railroad.

(6) The story and significance of the Underground Railroad can best engage the American people through a national program of the National Park Service that links historic buildings, structures, and sites; routes, geographic areas, and corridors; interpretive centers, museums, and institutions; and programs, activities, community projects, exhibits, and multimedia materials, in a manner that is both unified and flexible.

**(b) Purposes**

The purposes of sections 4691 to 4691-2 of this title are the following:

(1) To recognize the importance of the Underground Railroad, the sacrifices made by those who used the Underground Railroad in search of freedom from tyranny and oppression, and the sacrifices made by the people who helped them.

(2) To authorize the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad, its significance as a crucial element in the evolution of the national civil rights movement, and its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation.

(Pub. L. 105-203, §2, July 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 678.)

**§ 4691-1. National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary of the Interior (in sections 4691 to 4691-3 of this title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall establish in the National Park Service a program to be known as the “National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom” (in sections 4691 to 4691-3 of this title referred to as the “national network”). Under the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(2) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance under subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the national network and issue regulations for its use.

**(b) Elements**

The national network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the National Park Service determined by the Secretary to pertain to the Underground Railroad.